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Letter dated 1 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the preparations of the Russian Federation to conduct illegal elections in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol (see annex).

I would appreciate if you could have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yuriy **Vitrenko**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the preparations of the Russian Federation to conduct illegal elections in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expressed its strong protest to the Russian Federation against its intention to organize pseudo-election processes and other illegal actions in temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol, in particular, an unlawful adoption of the list and limits of the polling stations. Another attempt by the occupying state to extend its national legislation over the territory of sovereign Ukraine is a flagrant violation of the international law and the legislation of Ukraine. Ukraine does not recognize any other "election processes" that are conducted by Kremlin in the temporarily occupied territory, and considers them null and void.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine "On securing the rights and freedoms of citizens and the legal regime on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine", any bodies, their officials and staff in the temporarily occupied territory and their activities shall be deemed unlawful if such bodies or officials are established, elected or appointed in a manner not stipulated by the legislation of Ukraine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls upon all states, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any pseudo-election processes that are taking place in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, to refrain from any action that might be interpreted as a ground for the legitimization of illegal elections, and to increase their pressure on the Russian Federation in order to make it end its aggression against Ukraine and begin process of de-occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.